

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

IN THE CLAIMS:

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of withdrawn claims 1, 8, 10, and 12-14 directed to group I, species 1-2, non-elected without traverse. Accordingly,
- 3.
4. - Claims 1, 8, 10, and 12-14 have been cancelled.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not, alone or in combination, disclose forming bias magnets forming giant magnetoresistive elements on a planar surface of the thick film as well as slopes, top portions, and bottoms of the channels; forming a giant magnetoresistive element film; positioning the semiconductor substrate, in which the giant magnetoresistive film is formed, close to a magnet array, and subjecting the semiconductor substrate to heat treatment; and removing a part of the giant magnetoresistive element film by way of etching, thus forming magneto-sensitive elements forming the giant magnetoresistive elements on the planar surface of the thick film and the slopes of the channels (claims 2-3, 5, 7, 9, and 11).

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NOTE: Claims 4 and 6, which depend from claim 2, have been rejoined, examined and allowed.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Bot LeDynch whose telephone number is 571-272-2231. The Examiner normally does not work on Fridays. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Thursdays according to a FlexiMax schedule. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, PATRICK J. ASSOUAD, SPE, can be reached on (571)272-2210.

The formal fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Because of confidentiality of patent application information and of internet security, Applicant's communications, such as, emails or facsimiles, which are sent directly to the Examiner's fax phone number or email address will not be considered, and will be disregarded unless prior approval is obtained from the Examiner.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bot LeDynch/
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